

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final office action of October 31, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 remain pending in this application. Claims 3, 6, 9 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the instant amendment to advance prosecution.

Applicants have amended paragraph 6 of the specification to correct a minor informality.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 5-7, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claims 1, 6, 7 and 12, the action alleges that the recitation of “indicia of attributes” is not supported. While not acquiescing in this rejection, to improve the clarity of the invention, applicants have deleted “indicia of attributes.”

With respect to claims 5 and 11, the action contends that “the obtained set of annotated documents includes at least two documents” is not supported by applicants’ specification. Applicants respectfully disagree. Notably, “the obtained set of annotated documents includes at least two documents” is inherent in the specification and would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art from, for example, paragraph 6 of the specification, which recites: “[t]he present invention collects and organizes annotated WBDs, and provides users with an intuitive Web-based interface for accessing, viewing and searching the annotated WBDs.” One skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the invention encompassed the obtained set of annotated documents including at least two documents.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the section 112 rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,389,435 to Golovchinsky et al. (“Golovchinsky”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As amended, independent claims 1 and 7, call for including attributes of the annotation data in at least one searchable index, wherein the attributes are not user-definable, and searching for at least one of the attributes in the at least one searchable index to obtain a set of annotated documents that is a subset of the plurality of annotated documents. Even assuming without making an admission that Golovchinsky discloses the claim recitation of searching for at least one of the attributes in the at least one searchable index to obtain a set of annotated documents that is a subset of the plurality of annotated documents as alleged in the action, the “freeform digital ink marks” disclosed in column 4, lines 27-33 and column 2, lines 16-19 of Golovchinsky that the action seemingly relies on to show the attributes does not teach or suggest that the attributes are not user definable. On the contrary, the freeform digital marks disclosed in Golovchinsky at column 2, lines 2-5 and as reference signs 42, 44, and 46 in Figures 2 and 3 are user-definable. For at least this reason, claims 1 and 7 are patentably distinguishable from Golovchinsky.

Claims 2, 4 and 5, which ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 8, 10 and 11, which ultimately depend from claim 7, are patentably distinguishable from Golovchinsky for at least the same reasons as their ultimate base claim, and further in view of the novel features recited therein. For example, claim 2 recites that the attributes include at least one of a time and date of an annotation event and an author of the annotated document. Also, claim 4 recites that the attributes include at least a Website associated with the annotated document. Golovchinsky is wholly devoid of a teaching or suggestion of such features.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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